
Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission August 11, 2009

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, 7:30 a.m., at the Transportation Center Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Don Cassano, Ben Goren, Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Gary Roberts, Peter Schelstraete, Augustus Shaw IV, Edward Smith, David Strang

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Bill Haas, Catherine Mayorga, Steven Saiz, Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake, Bryan Young

City Staff Present:

Darcie Bontems, Kent Clayton, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Cathy Hollow, Noah Johnson, Gregg Kent, Amanda Nelson, Kerby Rapp, Bonnie Richardson, Shelly Seyler, Sue Taaffe

Guests Present:

Michael Grandy (Kimbley-Horn), Bryan Patterson (Kimbley-Horn), Ken Perron (Tempe Resident)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Edward Smith made a motion to approve all minutes. David Strang seconded the motion. The following minutes were approved:

- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review – April 8, 2009
- Transportation Commission - June 9, 2009
- Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review – June 10, 2009
- Ad hoc Transit Fund Committee – June 22, 2009
- Public Involvement and Marketing Committee – July 13, 2009

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Photo Enforcement Update

Lieutenant Noah Johnson presented the following information:

- Lieutenant Rapp will be taking Lieutenant Johnson's place in traffic enforcement.
- Rural Road and Southern Avenue was the last intersection installed in November of 2008.
- Seven intersections have two approaches each with red light and speed enforcement.

- There are three midblock speed detection sites at 200 S. Rural Road, 500 S. Rural Road, and 600 S. Priest Drive.
- Two mobile vans are now being deployed without an operator.
- Photo enforcement trailers may replace vans in the future.
- The process for issuing traffic violations begins with Redflex reviewing photos and then forwarding them on to PD who then utilizes three civilian officers to review violations using side by side driver license comparison.
- There were some legal issues at the beginning of last year regarding civilian traffic enforcement, but those issues have since been resolved.
- In addressing public perception challenges, traffic enforcement has added additional speed limit notification signs, digital speed feedback signs, two photo enforcement warning signs leading up to mobile units, and traffic engineering is in the process of conducting speed limit surveys.
- More time is needed to determine the true impact of photo enforcement on accident reduction.

Commissioner Ben Goren expressed concern that speed limits throughout Tempe were inconsistent.

Lt. Noah Johnson explained that there is never a change of more than ten miles per hour from one speed limit zone to the next, and noted that the Traffic Bureau does not set the speed limits.

Commissioner Jayson Matthews suggested Traffic Engineering provide an overview as to how speed limits are determined.

Carlos de Leon added that five years ago Traffic Engineering along with the Transportation Commission conducted a review of speed limits throughout the city and as a result came up with options for changes that were later adopted by Council. The information can be made available at the next scheduled commission meeting.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete asked how traffic violations are handled with out of state plates or company vehicles.

Lt. Noah Johnson stated that a gender match is typically used in place of the side by side drivers license comparison for out of state violators unless a criminal offense has been committed. Lt. Johnson also noted that nine out of ten times businesses will report employees who receive a notice of violation.

Agenda Item 4 – First Street Alignment Study

Shelly Seyler, Ryan Patterson (Kimley-Horn), and Michael Grandy (Kimley-Horn) presented the following information:

- Consultants from Kimley-Horn are assisting the city with analysis for the First Street Realignment.
- The study looks at feasible alternatives to realign First Street between Farmer and Ash to improve east and westbound continuity.
- The study area includes the south intersection of First Street and Farmer, north intersection of First Street and Farmer Avenue, First Street and Ash and Rio Salado Parkway and Ash.
- Three alternatives to the current alignment were presented.
- Option one is the curved linear option, which works to minimize angle points and also requires some realignment of Farmer Avenue. Option one will have right-of-way implications, but will allow continuous movement and left turns.
- Option two is similar to option one, but requires minimal curves and would shift the road south.
- Option three introduces two roundabouts and will have significantly higher right-of-way implications.
- Variations of all three options are possible.
- Next step is to come up with a recommended preferred option.

Commissioner Peter Schelstraete had questions regarding bicycle safety in a roundabout.

Michael stated bicyclists would have the option of acting as a motor vehicle and taking the lane or acting as a pedestrian and walking through the cross walk. Michael also added that bicycle lanes do not usually work correctly in a roundabout.

Jayson Matthews added a benefit to the roundabout is its traffic calming capabilities.

Agenda Item 5 – Ad hoc Transit Fund Committee Update

Joe Clements presented the following information:

- The Ad hoc Committee has identified a preferred overall financial strategy which involves using \$40 million in fund balance to partially retire debt principal and reducing a total of \$7.4 million in annual recurring operating expenses by phasing in major reductions over the current fiscal year and fiscal years 10-11 to 12-13.
- The preferred financial strategy would balance forecasted costs with revenue and provide an estimated fund balance of \$10 million.
- Additional information will be provided at future commission meetings.

Agenda Item 6 – Multi-Modal Planning and Project Review Update

Peter Schelstrete requested this agenda item be moved to the September Transportation Commission agenda.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

- Light Rail Ridership

Jayson Matthews adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Prepared by:
Darcie Bontems

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon